Department of Political Science

Contact Information:
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Administration:
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Political science is the systematic study of politics and its connection
to human life as a whole. It focuses on the way people are governed
and govern themselves in a wide variety of settings—including the
state, the workplace, schools, and the family—and the way in which
governance in those settings affects their life chances and shapes their
sense of self. Students who elect this major examine, among other
things, the relationships between law and political institutions, economic
and political power, and culture and political identity. They develop the
analytical, interpretive, and critical methods necessary to understand
these relationships at local, national, regional, or international levels, and
thus, to act as responsible citizens at those levels. They also learn to
write well. In short, political science is central to a well-rounded liberal
arts education.

Political science also provides excellent preparation for careers in law,
government, teaching, journalism, business, and the nonprofit sector.

In addition to the BA with a Major in Political Science program, the
department offers two concentrations: the Concentration in Law and
Courts and the Concentration in Urban Politics.

Distinction
To be considered for graduation with Distinction in Political Science, a
student must have a minimum cumulative UIC GPA of 3.25/4.00 and a
minimum GPA of 3.50/4.00 in all political science courses. The student
must enroll in POLS 305, for 3 semester hours in each of the last two
semesters of the student’s senior year. Over the course of enrollment
in POLS 305, students must write a research project and present and
defend it to a faculty examining committee.

Degree Programs
• BA with a Major in Political Science
• BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Law and Courts
• BA with a Major in Political Science, Concentration in Urban Politics

Minor
• Minor in Political Science